



August 6, 2011

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TO: Planning and Land Use Committee
Neighborhood Council of Westchester / Playa

FROM: Donald Duckworth
Executive Director
Westchester Town Center BID

SUBJECT: Illegal Marijuana Dispensary at 6218 Manchester

The Neighborhood Council Board of Directors referred the WTC BID's complaint about the subject cooperative to you for consideration and possible recommendation of corrective action.

Just last month, the WTC BID and its business stakeholder members became aware that the "Green Street Wellness Center was initiating business operations at 6218-D Manchester Boulevard, next door, among others, to Vergari Dance Center. We have been in contact with local business stakeholders, LAPD, the City Council Office and others and there is clear agreement this new marijuana dispensary does not comply with the City's grandfathering criteria and is improperly located within 1,000 foot radius of a school, religious institution, or youth center (i.e. the dance center). There could well be other LAMC problems with this new business as well.

We understand that the City is in the process of resolving various legal challenges to its Medical Marijuana Ordinance. It is understandable that these challenges could call into question some dispensary operations in some parts of the City. This particular dispensary enjoys none of those possible benefits of legitimacy. Why, then would it not be shuttered immediately? We would like to encourage responsible community action to that end or compliance with the LAMC.

The City Medical Marijuana Ordinance was enacted as a public safety measure (not a land use measure) for the purposes of enabling safe access to medical marijuana while appropriately regulating the number and operations of collectives within the City so as to protect qualified patients, the neighborhoods, and the larger community from, among other ills, the distribution of tainted product, its diversion to non-medical use, the proliferation of non-permitted dispensaries, and their secondary negative

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effects. The City has a duty to address the problem of drug dealers and recreational users who are attempting to hijack the State's medical marijuana legislation for their own benefit. Failure to do so will negatively impact the ability of legitimate patients and the community at large.

Attached is a copy of Article 5.1 LAMC regarding "Medical Marijuana Collectives," a January 13, 2011 City Attorney Report and amendment to the LAMC, and a May 4, 2011 City Attorney Report and amendment to the LAMC for your information.

As we may be of any additional assistance, please let me know. Thank you.